

For the first time everl We're going to take a look behind the scenes of a comic book which shows what life in jall is really like



A

Up to now Kazuichi Hanawa expressed himself through works of fliction. The fantastic world of tales from the Middle Ages were his favorite setting. A twist of fate caused him to be locked away for three years in fall, which is a very real place. There too this genius conjured his aniusement and loneliness through his works. And that is how this exceptional record of life in prison was achieved.

I asked them, "Are you going to arrest me today?" and they answered, "No, not yet".





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# THE PRISON DINING HALL







# DOING TIME

KAZUICHI HANAWA





- H: I told him, "I need a permit for pneumatic rifles, please give me a psychological test". So he just gave me the certificate. (laughs)
- K: Is that so?
  A: I can't believe it. No one has ever come to my clinic for that.
- my clinic for that.

  K: They wouldn't go to the department of psychiatry, would they? (Jaughs)
- H: I think anyone who wants to own a gun has to pass a psychological test.
- A: Have you ever gone hunting with a pneumatic rifle?
- H: No, I haven't. I only practiced target shooting. There was a shooting range at Korakuen
- K: When did you stop shooting?
  H: When I was about 20. I think I'd been doing
- it for maybe five years or so. K: If I'm not mistaken the East area in Sapporo
- also has a range.

  A: And there's a range in Higashi-ku (East area)
- and there's also a jail (laughs).

## Busted!

- A: So, you did it as a hobby, but were arrested because one of your friends had lent you a real one, right?
- H : Yes.
  A: When did the police search your house?
- A: When did the police search your house: H: I think it was November 11th, 1994.
- A: They didn't arrest you then, did they?

H: They searched the house.

- A : And you could feel there was something strange. When did they arrest you?
- K: We found out about that on December 8th. It was all over the news.
- H: You were a big help at the time. I'd never even dreamed I'd ever need help like that in my life.
- A: No one ever anticipates a thing like that.
  (laughs)

### Arraingment and bail hearing

K : OK, so tell us what it was like December

28th, the day of the arraignment and bail hearing.

- A : Yes, do.
   K : We'd already been told how much bail should amount to so we had it ready. But on the day itself the lawyer told us, "in fact it's going
- to cost this much".

  A: It was more than you had anticipated.
- K: Yes, yes. So we ran around trying to raise it. Finally the lawyer lent us the year-end bonus he'd just received or somesuch. See, if we couldn't pay bail, the court wouldn't release him until after New Year's. We felt we had no choice but to get him out that
- A: Or else he'd end up spending New Year's in jail.
   K: It was the last working day of the year so the
- mood at the courthouse and from the police was rather slow, like, "This is it". A: Yes, I see. Like, "Let's finish up asap and go
- home".
  K: While we were running around like mad.
- (laughs)
  A: Since it was impossible to know whether or not Mr. Hanawa was depressed, we were trying desperately to raise the money. However, now I remember that
- were trying desperately to raise the money. However, now I remember that Mr. Hanawa was calm right from the very beginning. K: That's right.
- A: What was your mood like at that moment?
- H: Mmmmmm. Well... hmmmmm. Anyhow, I was very grateful to you for getting me out
- K: You'd been in for about three weeks, right?
  A: Did they take you away forcibly?
- A: Did they take you away forcibly? H: No, they gave me time to wrap things up.
- When I asked them, "Are you going to arrest me today?", they answered, "No, not yet". A: "No, not yet". (laughs)

Introduction - a conversation between Kazuichi Hanawa, Yukihiro Abe (reviewer of mongo comics) and Kyoko Abe (playwright).



For the first time ever! We're going to take a look behind the scenes of a comic book which shows what life in jail is really like...

# I asked them, "Are you going to arrest me today?" and they answered, "No, not yet".

#### Nuts about model guns

## Yukihiro Abe (A): Were you into model guns as a child?

- a child? Kazuichi Hanawa (H) : Yes, that's right,
- A: In your first book, "Moonlight", you also wrote about model guns, didn't you?
- Kyoko Abe (K): Oh, the epilogue.

  A: You mentioned having gotten into trouble once for playing with model guns at a ryokan
- where you and some friends were staying.

  H: They called the cops. (laughs)
- A: So, the people at the inn got nervous? H: Yes. At the time there were concerns about
- terrorists. There were six of us and one of the guys looked a lot like one of the most wanted.
- K: That's why... (laughs). H: We all wore Ground Self-Defense Force
- surplus coats.
  K: Did you go there to play "Survivor" or
- something? H: We went to make a Super 8 film, which is
- one of my hobbies. To ski, too. A: So, it was quite wholesome.

people. You too, Mr. Hanawa?

- K: What's happened to the rest of your friends?
   H: They're all very active citizens. One of them even became a big honcho in the military, he's very prominent in those circles.
- A: In childhood, boys especially go through a stage when they go in for that sort of thing, don't they? And some keep it up even after they're grown up, they're just that kind of
- H : Hmmm. The kind of people who turn their hobbies into a business.
- A: Could be trains or guns or, like Mr. Hanawa, who likes to do pen drawings and does so for a living. I remember that there used to be stories with pen drawings or ads for model guns in boys' magazines, back when they were monthlies, and I'm under the

impression your work must be full of that sort of thing. H: Must be.

- A: In other words, you grew up but didn't change, holding onto the things you liked.
- H: When I was a boy you could order pneumatic guns through a catalog. Real ones.
- A: Nowadays that would be impossible.

  K: You've got to have a permit.
- H : Yeah, yeah.
- K : You say you gave up your permit.
- H: Yes. You have to renew it every year. The police check to make sure the guns haven't been altered. They even measure them.

  A: Oh, so they say, "they haven't been altered".
- H: Yeah, that's it.

  A: Do you have to take your gun with you to the
- police station?
- H: Yes, you have to carry it.
- K: That's pretty tough.
  A: Do all those who play wargames have to do it?
- H: They use air guns. Those are just toys so they're not the same thing at all. But pneumatic rifles use lead bullets, they're
- powerful.

  A: So they can be used for hunting.

  H: You they can be used for hunting or
- H: Yes, they can be used for hunting sparrows, rabbits, crows... they fall easily.

  A: When did you get this permit?
- H : Before I was about 15. They gave me a general knowledge test. Then I had a psychological evaluation.

  A B K : Psychological evaluation?
- H: I went to the doctor, he examined me and issued a certificate. (laughs)
- K : What? A : What doctor did you go to?
- H : GP, one in the neighborhood.
- A: Internal medicine or something like that. (laughs)

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Yukihiro Abe Reviewer of comic books and a psychiatrist. He participated in Mr. Hanawa's trial. Besides writing for the 'The Hokkaido' newspaper for many years, he also writes for 'Eureka' and 'Hato vo!' (Dove!) magazines.

Playwright Rorn in Otanu in 1960. A fan of Hannwa's camics ever since college. During his trial she took care of correspondence with his lawyer. the hearing attendance recard, etc. Besides warking far the theater she writes reviews of comic books for 'The Hakkaida' newspaper.



However the chat with Mr. Hanawa was entertaining.

H · I made sketches in a notenok of a lot of Aum members from photos in the 'Takara'ima

30' magazine. And when they inspected my notebook they asked me. "Do you belong to Aum?". (laughs) A: When I went to see him, he always told me

that he didn't need anything, that he had no

H: Yeah, you can get anything you want inside, you know.

K : Anyhow, a lot of people went to see him at that time... you'd never seen so many people in so short a time, eh? H: Yeah, I was in a totally different world.

A: After it's over it seems to have lasted no. time at all

K: I thought three years was a long time. A: The way this book has turned out it looks like

he went to do some research for three years! H: For a long time I'd been interested in knowing what the world behind bars was

like. I remember now, the first time 'Garo' magazine selected something of mine it was "Kannomushi" but before that I'd tried to write a strip about someone with a mask locked up in a basement, I dropped it, and then I wrote "Kannomushi".

A & K : Really?

A : So you were interested in the confinement theme

H: And since I was there. I was able to experience life in the big cage for myself.

K: It's just that, a cage. By the way, I was writing several plays that dealt with confinement as the subject.

A: Yes, that's right. K: In a box or a jug with only the head sticking out and so on

H: It would've been cool if I'd been able to see someone on death row

A: What exactly would you have liked to see? H: What? I'd've been satisfied with just seeing

K . There must have been one at about that

time in the Sapporo jail. I think his death sentence was carried out later.

H: That day there was another plate at dinner, to celebrate.

K · What? To celebrate?

H: Yes, When a death sentence is carried out. they add a meal. It's something I heard about afterwards.

## No stay of execution

K: Then a lot of things happened until the appeals hearing, but we won't talk about them now, and, on September 5th, they confirmed the sentence and rejected the

appeal. A: How long were you actually in jail? H: I went in in the March and came out in

October two years later. A: She (Kyoko Abe) was the one in charge

of writing petitions and managing the paperwork, etc. making up lists of names... And I wrote articles about the affair in 'Garo'.

H: Thank you very much.

A: The petitions... K : We got together about 600. And twice at

that. With prestigious names. A: Has Mr. Hanawa seen them?

H: Yes, the lawver showed me copies,

K: When you were granted parole you wrote

thank you notes to everyone. A: You also donated a million.

H: The lawyer suggested I do so. A: But I don't know how much of a reduction was earned for having done these things.

K : Well, they'd asked for a long sentence. They asked for five years. After that the lawyer was down, saying, "I can't get a suspended sentence unless it's under three years...". So Mr. Hanawa cheered the lawyer up telling him, "We-ell, five years is still light".

A: The accused cheered up the lawyer...!

H : Hmm. I'm not sure it went quite like that. K: Then he went to jail in Sapporo and was

The coveted Rokken "Government"

K : Then we'd meet with the lawver to prepare for the trial. We were busy, weren't we? A: What did you do at home during that time?

H: I drew. Lalso read books.

K: And you got rid of all the model guns, right?

A: You got rid of them all? H · Yes

K : He gave me two. There was another one that was very old and it was totally illegal to own it or give it to anyone. Only someone who'd had one for a very long time was allowed to keep it and he (Mr. Hanawa) threw it away because it would have been too dangerous to

give it to me. A: He'd've ended up committing one offense

after another. K: Although I felt it was a shame.

A: Must be something that makes enthusiasts drool H: Yes, That gun costs more than a million if

you buy it on the black market A: What! What's it called?

H: It's made by Rokken. There's a guy called Mutobe who's venerated in the model gun world. He's the person who made the history of these guns in Japan. My gun had been

created by him, by hand. A : Handmade? Wow! H : But if I'd sold it. I'd've broken the law on

firearms K: Was it the "Government" model?

H: Yes, it was made of tin. Enthusiasts say "Wow!", those in the know say "Let me feel it" or "Show me". It was the greatest

masterpiece of model guns. K : So you took it apart and threw it away. H: Well, since I had suddenly lost interest...

Kushi dango are forbidden

H : Yes.

K - His brothers and all came

A: From reading his books, I imagined all kinds of weird people would be there.

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K: That really cruel people would come. (laughs)

A: Well... I figured that his stories reflected his

inner world (laughs) K: You hadn't seen them for several years.

right? H: No...

A: Didn't you feel embarrassed? H : Yes, (laughs)

A: I knew it. H: I don't know how to explain it.

A: That's understandable. K: Then they appealed to the court about the

gun's canacity to kill. An expert came to the second trial. After that the defense brought character witnesses. On February 27th Mr. Tomohide Kure and Mr. Abe appeared. On March 6th they questioned the defendant and on the 8th called for appropriate punishment.

He was sentenced on the 22nd (looks at notes). A : And Mr. Hanawa was...

K : Led away as soon as the trial was over. I had bought him some kushi dango but...

H: Oh, so that's what you gave that guard at the trial

K : I passed them to him over the bar. H: In the end they didn't allow me to have

A · Who ate them?

K : I don't know...

A : And later, sweets would acquire great K : Well, you can still buy sweets in prison.

"Do you belong to Aum?"

K: I often went to the jail to chat with you. H: Yes.

A: By chance, you lived in the East area, near the iail. K: It was around the time of the Tokyo metro

attack by Aum and we talked a lot about that. Just fifteen minutes with a guard beside us. The visiting room was narrow.



- transferred later to Hakodate...
- H : Yes, I went there in December A: Wasn't it cold in iail?
- H : No, it wasn't cold.
  - K: I've heard the temperature is good in
- Hokkaído's jails. H: Yes, it is,
- A: To feel the cold in jail is ancient history. Read this book and find out what the
  - situation is like now. (laughs) He's already recouped what he paid.

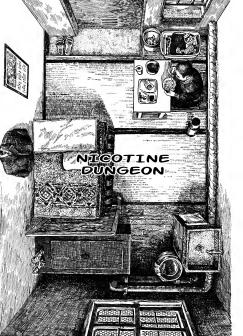
- K : What do you mean?
- A: That is, he's made the most of his
  - experience.
- K: There's nothing that can't be used. A: What about afterwards? What about his
- interest in model ouns? H: I'd had enough. I don't ever want to go back
  - there again, (laughs)

Sapporo, sometime in 2000

### Kazuichi Hanawa



page dates back to the 1980s.









































































I RETURN





I WRITE

TITLE OF

LIBRARY CARO...



"JOURNAL OF SWEET AND HOT JOURNEYS BY SHOZO OGHA" YEAR 36 OF THE SHOWA ERA "AKO SAMURAHS: REFLECTIONS ON LIFE AND DEATH BY ROZO HERO!" YEAR 39 OF THE SHOWA ERA "THE JAPANESE ELLIGIONS BY ISALAH BEN-3058N" YEAR 37 OF THE SHOWA ERA "THE MAPAKESE RELIGION BY ISAIAH BEN-DASAN" YEAR YY OF THE SHOWN EKA
"JAPAKESE HISTORY FROM A PERSONAL VIEWPOINT BY RYDTARO SHBA" YEAR 99 OF THE SHOWA EKA
"THE CHINA NO ONE KNOWS BY BAO LOO MANS'Y YEAR 99 OF THE SHOWA EKA "NO LANGUAGE BUT A CRY BY RICHARD D'AMBROSIO" 1975 "LITTLE BUS, BIG SOUL BY RYUICHI MATSUSHITA" 1976 "SEARCH FOR AMELIA BY FUMIKO AOKI" 1983













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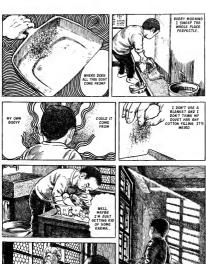






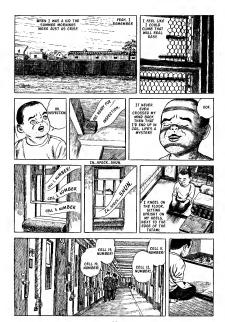
































"A PRESERVED FOOD MADE BY BOILING AN INGREDIENT MITH SUGAR AND SOY SAUCE
"PICKLED VEGETABLES IN SALT, RICE BRAIK MISO OR SAKE SEDIMENT. THEY ARE USUALLY SERVED TO COMPLEMENT OTHER DISHES



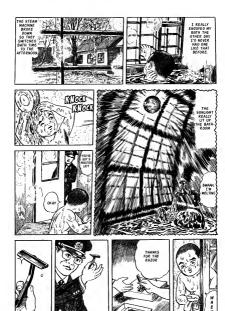








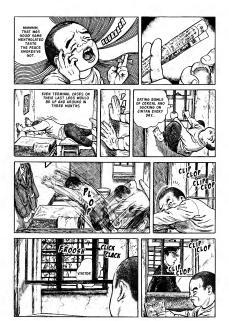




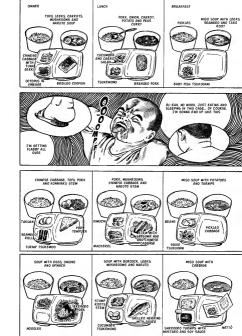


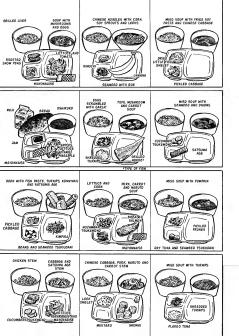






















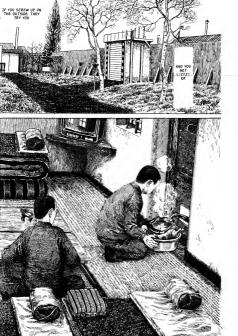




















































































THE CORNERS ARE WORN AND GREASY FROM SO MUCH HANDLING...

























































































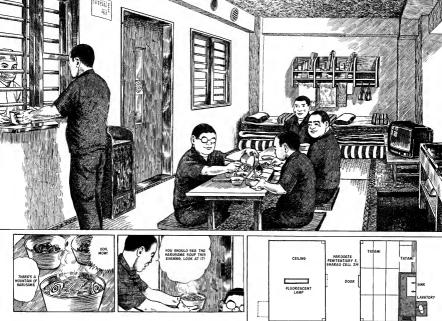








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BREAKFAST WORK STARTS LUNCH

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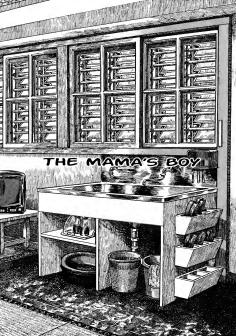






































































ME'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME. FOR HIS OWN CONVENIENCE HE MAKES A PILE OF THEM, NEATLY FOLOS THEM SO THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE MACHINE MADE AND THEN PLACES THEM ON THE SHELF...



















WHAT





















































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